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Identical letters dated 2 February 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, and in response to the baseless allegations contained in the identical letters dated 29 December 2017 from the representative of Israel, the occupying Power, addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2017/1130), I should like to bring to your attention the following information:

- As it has for over half a century, Israel continues to occupy the Syrian Golan in stark violation of all authoritative international resolutions that call on it to end its occupation, withdraw fully from the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967, and halt its systematic violations and oppressive daily practices against Syrian civilians suffering under occupation.

- Since the onset of recent events in Syria, Israel, the occupying Power, has added a new chapter of aggressive acts and violations of the 1974 Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian Forces and of Security Council resolutions, especially those relating to counter-terrorism, by providing all manner of military, material, logistical and medical support to members of the armed terrorist groups active in the area of separation in the occupied Syrian Golan. Those groups include the Nusrah Front, an organization appearing on the Security Council list of terrorist entities. Israel has facilitated the transit and movement of members of such groups from the far south of the area of separation to the north. These facts have been documented by various United Nations reports.

- We would like to point out that the command of the United Nations forces operating in the occupied Syrian Golan was not informed of the fabricated allegations appearing in the above-indicated identical letters. It did not register them in its records, and did not inform us about them in accordance with the 1974 Disengagement Agreement. Moreover, the alleged actions mentioned in the identical letters from the representative of Israel are being carried out by armed terrorist groups located in the northern and southern sections of the area of separation — that is to say, in Qahtaniyah, Qunaytirah, Hamidiyah, Jubbata al-Khashab, Ufaniyah, Ruwihinah, Burayqah, Bir Ajam and Ishshah — in full coordination with the Israeli occupation forces, which are providing logistical, medical, intelligence and operational support to those groups. Such support is currently being actively provided in the northern part of the area of separation by the Israeli occupation forces to terrorists from the Nusrah Front in Jubbata

al-Khashab and Hamidiyah. We note that right up until two weeks before the Syrian Arab Army entered the town of Bayt Jinn and took care of the armed fighter situation there, Israel, the occupying Power, continued to work day and night to provide the armed terrorist groups in Bayt Jinn with closed containers, a fact observed and documented by United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

- Armed terrorist groups have erected an earthen berm that stretches from the town of Hurriyah as far as Jubbata al-Khashab, with oversight and coordination by the Israeli occupation forces. Its purpose is to provide logistical support for the armed terrorist groups out of sight of the Syrian Government. Through a crossing they have established along with the armed terrorists in Jubbata al-Khashab behind the earthen berm, the Israeli occupation forces have been providing logistical, military and medical support to armed terrorist groups, starting in Jubbata al-Khashab and stretching to Burayqah and Bir Ajam.

- The armed terrorist groups have been attacking the Syrian Arab Army forces from points along the ceasefire line. That has been documented by the United Nations command.

- The 1974 Disengagement Agreement provides that the occupation forces shall, within a 24-hour period, hand over any person who crosses or breaches the ceasefire line to United Nations forces, which shall in turn hand that person over to the Syrian authorities. As it happens, the Israeli occupation forces have not handed over a single person. That fact alone should be construed as evidence enough to refute their fraudulent claims. That is not to mention all the observations and confirmations of the United Nations that point to close cooperation between the Israeli occupation forces and armed terrorist groups crossing the ceasefire line and coordinating with the occupation forces.

- Using the pretext of shells landing in the occupied Syrian Golan, the Israeli occupation forces have attacked several Syrian Arab Army positions. They have also launched aerial bombing and missile strikes against many sites inside Syria on several occasions without any pretext at all, as part of the Israeli occupation forces' support for the armed terrorist groups.

- The Syrian Government stresses that the allegations contained in the Israeli identical letters issued in the above-mentioned document are baseless. They are no more than a desperate attempt to justify the support provided by the Israeli occupation forces to the terrorist Nusrah Front and other armed terrorist organizations.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council, to take urgent measures to put an immediate stop to the ongoing Israeli attacks and violations, and to compel Israel to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions, particularly resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973) and 497 (1981), and withdraw from all of the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967.

I should be grateful if this letter could be issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mounzer **Mounzer**
Minister Plenipotentiary
Chargé d'affaires a.i.